Fire in Jharia coal mines

1776. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer the answer to Starred Question 261 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 1993 and to state:

(a) whether the fire inside the coal mines of Jharia has not been controlled and is fast spreading over to other new coal area;

(b) if so, what are the latest techniques and methods adopted by Government to control this fire;

(c) the total loss of coal which turned into ashes due to this fire, as on date; and

(d) the details of safety measures taken to save the Jharia town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Since nationalisation of the coal mines, concerted efforts have been made through implementation of various conventional fire fighting techniques for dealing with fires in Jharia Coalfield. These techniques include digging, trenching, blanketing, hydraulic sand flushing etc. Coal India Limited (CIL) has reported that as a result of the efforts made, further spread of six fires has been controlled.

(c) A precise estimate of coal reserves lost due to fire in Jharia Coalfield is difficult. However, it is estimated that about 37 million tonnes of coal might have been damaged in these fires.

(d) Due to implementation of various fire schemes, the danger to the safety of Jharia town has been reduced. With the obpective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires, a detailed diagnostic study has been undertaken under the Jharia Mise Fire Control Technical Assistance Project for which World Bank assistance of US$ 12.99 million has been approved.

Education for coal workers' children

1777. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for educating the children of coal workers in the wage negotiations held and agreed so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The National Coal Wage Agreement-IV has the following provisions relating to educational facilities for coal workers:—

(i) About 100 school buildings will be constructed by the coal companies during the period of 4 years from the date of signing of NCWA-IV and the details of the same will be decided at the Company level in consultation with J.C.C.

(ii) The existing recurring grants to private committee managed schools in the coalfields will be enhanced so as to enable the schools to be run better including the payment of higher salaries to the teachers and expenditure on workers education.

(iii) Coal India will provide a grant of Rs. 2 crores per annum (excluding capital expenditure) for its subsidiary companies in addition to the amount granted in NCWA-III which will be administered by a companywise Joint Bipartite Committee. Where workers come forward with their own contribution for the running of educational institutions matching grants will be given by the coal companies.

Pay Scales of teachers of coal workers children

1778. SHRIMATH CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agreement between BCCL and any of the coal

workers/union on the pay scale of the teachers engaged in educating the children of the coal workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir. However there have been discussion from time to time between BCCL and the coal workers/unions about grants to private schools run by managing committees, where children of coal workers study.

(b) Does not arise.

Build, own and operate scheme by CIL

1779. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) had a proposal to implement "build, own and operate" scheme;

(b) if so, the response made by the private sector to that scheme;

(c) whether Coal India Ltd. has drawn up any other scheme towards privatisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE iOF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) has decided to set up coal washeries and also captive power plants on "build, own and operate" basis.

(b) CIL, had received good response to several occasions from the private sector against tenders floated on "build, own and operate" scheme for setting up captive power plants. The response to the tenders for the washeries under "build, own and operate" scheme was inadequate. For coal washeries global tender has now been invited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of open cast coal mines

1780. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken steps for the development of some open cast coal mines which have been developed so far;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps for the development of open cast coal mines at Ib Valley and Talcher Coalfields Ltd. under Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 59 opencast coal mining projects (each costing Rs. 20 crores and above have been sanctioned in Coal India Limited with a total sanctioned cost of Rs. 9570 crores and ultimate production capacity of 160.89 million tonnes per annum. Of these, 32 projects have been completed and 27 are in various stages of implementation in the different coal companies (including Mahanadi Coalfields Limited)

(c) and (d) In Talcher Ib Valley coalfields under the jurisdiction of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited there are 14 opencast coal mining projects completed and ongoing) with a total investment of 1733.91 crores and ultimate production capacity of 39.30 million tonnes per annum.

Weighment of Coal despatched by rail to power houses

1781. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a meeting, presided by the erstwhile Minister of Energy, held on 22nd December, 1986, the Chairman, Coal India Ltd, Railway Board's Director (Traffic) and the Chairman of power utility were present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it was decided in that meeting that in case collieries did not have any weighment facilities at sidings, the payment of coal would be adjusted as per weighment carried out in the power house weigh bridges;;

(c) if so, how much percentage of coal despatched by rail to power houses during the financial year 1993-94 were actually weighed at Colliery weighbridges, company-wise break-up; and